

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, August 18, 2009

**PRESENT:** Margaret Schwarzer, Mary Green, Beverly Hurney, Kitty Smith, John Turtle, Lynn Farnell, Jon Hayden, Elisabeth Rippy Stewart Tucker, Maryjane Burgess, Elisabeth Comer, Mike Stevens, Paul Pyzowski, Julia DePeyster, Stephan Braun

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by Margaret Schwarzer.

The minutes from June were reviewed and approved as amended.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The schedule of events for September was reviewed. The 8am service will resume on September 13. The Welcome Back BBQ will be on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration for Sunday School will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Acolytes and Sunday School classes resume on September 20.

It was decided to take the loose plate offering on September 27<sup>th</sup> and either send it to Santa Maria Virgin in El Salvador as a memorial for Larry Walton or an outreach program at the Wareham church. John Turtle will look into that program. Whatever is done will be done to honor Joan Walton's wishes. It will be decided at the Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**In accordance with Chapter V of the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs, it was moved that the Vestry approve continuing the rector's discretionary account for use by The Reverend Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest. This account is to be used for expenses that are not covered by the operating budget but are necessary to carry out the clergy person's ministry. Examples of these expenses include, but are not limited to, attendance at conferences, purchases of books and journals, entertainment of individuals with a purpose directly related to the congregation's ministry and professional membership in organizations related to the ministry, e.g., the clergy Association. Any books, vestments, equipment or other tangible business items purchased with discretionary funds, are the property of the congregation and, therefore, must stay with the congregation when the cleric leaves unless the cleric pays the fair market value for the item to own it.**

The discretionary fund has been changed to allow Margaret to administer it, and signatories for the four church deposit accounts have been updated.

## **VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNT**

Mike Stevens will review the statements and Mary Green will sign any checks payable to Margaret.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Interim Report:** Margaret reported that it was nice to have summer where she could meet people in small numbers before fall. She was impressed by the B-Safe program and is learning other programs and worship.

**Search Committee:** Mike Stevens reported for the Search Committee. The August meeting was a good one. The Parish profile is complete and posted to the St. Mary's and National web sites. The Parish Profile will indicate that we will also consider candidates who prefer to reside in non-rectory housing.

**Stewardship:** Julia DePeyster reported for Stewardship. Stewart Tucker will be her co-captain. They will be using the story of the loaves and fishes as the theme. They distributed an outline about the program.

There was some discussion of the Legacy Circle, originally approved as the Alfred C. Baur Society in 2007. Stewart will head up its implementation. There was a motion to rename it the Peter Chase Legacy Society.

**Investment Committee:** Nick dePeyster had nothing specific to report for the Investment Committee.

**Treasurer:** Mike Stevens reported that the budget is mostly in line. We will be looking at the cost of lawn care.

**Membership:** Elisabeth Rippy reported on new members. Blue Ribbon BBQ will be on the menu for the Welcome Back BBQ on September 20th. Whitney Pyzowski will help. An ice cream truck will be there too. The Quirks are a new family and a new man is seeking a new church.

Property:

Jon Hayden reported for the property committee. Kirsten got an inexpensive quote from Noack to repair the sagging organ pipes. Five window panes are fixed; there are two to go. The black sign at the front has been redone and looks nice. There is a rather complete estimate of the costs to repair the rectory. It is not an overdone proposal, just enough to repair obvious defects and deficiencies. The list was distributed and is attached.

Paul Pyzowski talked about the expenses of the rector change and how to finance it. There are renovations that are long overdue as well. He proposed taking out a loan for renovations, including a sound system, fire suppression system for church and heating updates. Combined with the rectory updates and rector change expenses it may be as much as \$100,000.

**VOTE TO APPROVE GETTING INFORMATION ON FUNDING OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**VOTE TO APPROVE INITIAL RECTORY RENOVATION EXPENSES OF UP TO \$24,000**

Mike Stevens is still anxious that we get an energy audit with all the changes underway. There is a question about whether the cost of insurance will drop. Dick Sabin will be asked to investigate.

Interim Priest  
& Staff:

Mary Green reported that Denise will be back from vacation on August 31 and Kirsten will be back August 25.

Youth &  
Christian Ed:

Isabel will be interim director of Christian Education. She will also teach two classes. Joanne Flatley won't be back this fall. More extensive changes won't take place until there is a new rector.

Outreach:

Elisabeth Comer reported meeting with Noah Bullock in July re El Salvador. The Outreach Committee will meet in Oct.

Women of  
St. Mary's:

Maryjane Burgess reported that the booklet is done. She will chair Foods and Fancies this year and asked for support, especially with publicity. The B-Safe program was a big success, and we plan to participate again next year.

Tenants: Dick Sabin emailed a report. The new rent for Hills and Falls will begin this fall. The new director wants the new contract earlier rather than later so they can set tuition.

Churchyard: Beverly had \$1000.00 work done on the unstable tombs.

Worship: Margaret had no report

Altar Guild: No report

Hospitality No report

Music: Kirsten has offered the bass section leader position but the candidate has not accepted as of this date.

Deanery: No report.

St. Mary's  
Historian: No report

Paul announced that they had decided to let a parishioner live in the rectory for several months starting in September. They will pay a nominal rent. In the past Martha McGandy lived in the rectory while it was unoccupied.

Margaret concluded with a prayer.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Farnell, Clerk